



# Mason in Motion



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## FAIRFAX COUNTY CRIME SOLVERS

**CALLERS MAY  
REMAIN  
ANONYMOUS**  
TOLL FREE  
1-866-411-TIPS

CRIMESOLVERS  
@ FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV



## National Night Out

The 25th Annual National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2008. Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), National Night Out is the nation's largest annual crime and drug prevention event. It is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships;
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and active in preventing crime.

Neighborhoods throughout the nation come together to celebrate National Night Out with a variety of events and activities. Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, activities that have taken place in Fairfax's neighborhoods include: block parties, cookouts, ice cream gatherings, watermelon feasts, flashlight walks, and visits from local police, fire department, and city officials.

National Night Out has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

Begin planning now to participate in this year's 25th Annual National Night Out event. For additional information, call the Mason District Station, Crime Prevention Unit at (703)354-5889 or email [Courtney.Thibault@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Courtney.Thibault@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Lights On campaign can also be registered with National Night Out and scheduled with the Mason Crime Prevention Unit.

## Good Luck!

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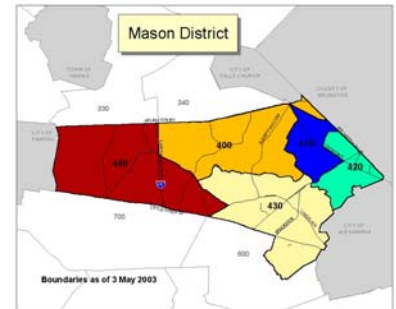
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# Navigate away from being a victim

**Special Attention!**

## What makes GPS units such a target?



Satellite navigation systems can be pre-installed units fitted into vehicles during the manufacturing process or small, portable units that can be purchased separately and added to vehicles.

The portable units are easily installed with no complicated wiring procedures. Generally, all that is required is to install a cradle which attaches to the front windshield by a suction cup.

These units are small, portable and frequently reported stolen.

## Tips for deterring thefts:

- Do not leave valuables visible from the outside. Remove portable GPS units from the dashboard, including the cradle. Do not simply place it in the glove box or under the seat.
- Keep a supply of moist towelettes to clean the area of the windshield marked by the suction cup.
- Do not leave other valuables in the vehicle, including laptop computers, cameras, satellite radios or cellular telephones.
- Lock all doors and close windows when leaving the car, even if it is only for a short time.
- Try to park in a well-lit, busy area.





### ***Codes You May Not Know***

#### **Sale of merchandise from vehicles on road rights of way.**

82-1-30

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to park any automobile, truck or any other automotive equipment on or along the roads, highways and streets of the County, or within the rights of way of such roads, highways and streets for the purpose of selling or soliciting the sale of or otherwise displaying or offering for sale any goods, wares or other merchandise in or from such vehicles.
- (b) This Section shall not apply to any huckster, peddler or other person who may travel in any vehicle upon the highways and streets for the purpose of selling goods, wares, merchandise or services from house to house and who shall stop his vehicle only for the purpose of making such house-to-house sales.
- (c) Any person who violates any provision of this Section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, punished in accordance with the provisions of Section 46.2-113 of the *Code of Virginia*.



## ***Slow Down/Move Over Law***

***By MPO Wellford Brock***

There is an important law out there many people may not know about and you should. It is called the “Slow Down/Move Over Law.” In 2002, a new law designed to protect public safety workers and give them more room to work along the roadway made its way into the books in Virginia that is.

The law states that when you are approaching a stationary emergency vehicle with its emergency lights activated you must proceed with caution. If you are on a four lane highway (with at least two traffic lanes in each direction), you must either yield the right-of-way by making a lane change to a lane away from the emergency vehicle or if a lane change can not be made safely, proceed past the emergency vehicle with due caution and maintain a safe speed for the conditions. Violation of this statute is a Class 1 misdemeanor and could result in the suspension of your privilege to drive in Virginia for up to two years. The sentence depends on what property damage or personal injury occurred.

### **Code of Virginia § 46.2-921.1. Drivers to yield right-of-way or reduce speed when approaching stationary emergency vehicles on highways; penalties.**

*The driver of any motor vehicle, upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle, as defined in § 46.2-920, that is displaying a flashing, blinking, or alternating emergency light or lights as provided in §§ 46.2-1022, 46.2-1023, and 46.2-1024, shall (i) on a highway having at least four lanes, at least two of which are intended for traffic proceeding as the approaching vehicle, proceed with caution and, if reasonable, with due regard for safety and traffic conditions, yield the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that occupied by the stationary emergency vehicle or (ii) if changing lanes would be unreasonable or unsafe, proceed with due caution and maintain a safe speed for highway conditions.*

*Violation of any provision of this section shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor. If the violation resulted in damage to property of another person, the court may, in addition, order the suspension of the driver's privilege to operate a motor vehicle for not more than one year. If the violation resulted in injury to another person, the court may, in addition to any other penalty imposed, order the suspension of the driver's privilege to operate a motor vehicle for not more than two years. If the violation resulted in the death of another person, the court may, in addition to any other penalty imposed, order the suspension of the driver's privilege to operate a motor vehicle for two years.*



## FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT MASON DISTRICT STATION CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE

### VACANT HOMES AND BUILDINGS

Due to a rise in the number of reports of persons entering vacant homes and commercial buildings, you are urged to keep an eye on such homes in your neighborhood. Report any suspicious or unusual activity by calling the police non-emergency telephone number: 703-691-2131.

The information below is intended for children, teens and adults who may be considering “hanging out” in such homes and buildings.

**Q: Is it ok to ‘hang out’ in a house or building that is vacant because no one lives there?**

A: NO. Even if no one is living in the house or building, someone *still owns* the property and you would be committing a crime.

Depending on the circumstances of the event and the investigation you *could* be charged with the following crimes:

- **Burglary** – a felony crime punishable by a term of imprisonment of one to 20 years or, in the discretion of the jury or the court trying the case without a jury, be confined in jail for a period not exceeding 12 months or fined not more than \$2,500, either or both.
- **Trespassing or Unlawful Entry** – a misdemeanor crime which is punishable by confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both.
- **Destruction of Personal Property** - If the value of property destroyed is less than \$1,000 it is a class 1 misdemeanor punishable by confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both. If the value of property destroyed is greater than \$1,000 it is a class 6 felony which is punishable by a term of imprisonment of one to five years, or in the discretion of the jury or the court trying the case without a jury, confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both.

**In addition to the above crimes you *could* face additional charges – based on the circumstances and your behavior / activities – such as curfew violations, alcohol or drug violations, etc.**

**Q: Who should I call if I see someone entering a vacant house?**

A: You should call the non-emergency number, 703/691-2131. If possible please continue to watch the vacant house so you can provide officers with additional information.

**Think twice before entering a vacant home or building!**

The Fairfax County Police Department is committed to the safety of your neighborhood. If you have any concerns, please call the Mason District Station Crime Prevention Office, 703/354-5889.



## Police Department Wins National Award

The Fairfax County Police Department is proud to be recognized by the IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police) Highway Safety Committee which announced the 2007-2008 National Law Enforcement Challenge Award winners at their mid-year meeting. The FCPD was awarded first place in the overall category, for municipal agencies of 1251 or more (sworn officers). The department was also awarded the Occupant Protection Award in the Special Category Awards. Occupant protection includes enforcement and education regarding the proper use of both seat belts and child safety seats.

Many multi-faceted efforts in enforcement and education were put into action. It begins with daily patrol activities as officers routinely enforce the law, but it is enhanced through specialized enforcement employed regularly to target specific issues and problem areas. Some of those programs include:

Click it or Ticket (seat belt enforcement)  
Smooth Operator (targeting aggressive drivers)  
“Street Smart” (pedestrian safety)  
“Stop on Red Week” (red light enforcement)  
Safety by the Bus Load  
Operation Big Rig  
SOS - Start of School (School Zone speed enforcement)  
Saturation patrols focused in several parts of the county  
DWI Check Points  
Youth Alcohol Enforcement  
Business Compliance Checks / Shoulder Taps



We remain focused on our three main traffic safety goals:

To reduce fatal, injury and property damage crashes,  
To change unsafe and illegal driver behavior, and,  
To change all drivers expectations concerning traffic enforcement in Fairfax County.

Overall crashes have gone down in a county encompassing nearly 400 square miles; a population of over one million; over 740,000 licensed drivers with over 800,000 registered vehicles.

According to the IACP, “The Law Enforcement Challenge is a competition between similar sizes and types of law enforcement agencies. It recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in the United States. The areas of concentration include efforts to enforce laws and educate the public about occupant protection, impaired driving, and speeding. Departments submit an application (usually in a three ring or presentation binder) which documents their agency's efforts and effectiveness in these areas. The winning safety programs are those that combine officer training, public information and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries within its jurisdiction.”

These awards are based on submissions made by the various police agencies. This year there were 560 total applications that were categorized and judged May 12-17, 2008 at IACP Headquarters in Alexandria by a panel of traffic safety professionals.

## Suspect Wanted for Stealing Lottery Tickets

Fairfax County Police detectives at the Mason District Station are asking for the public's assistance in identifying a man who has broken into businesses and stolen lottery tickets. One of the burglaries occurred at the Lakeside Market, 3800 Powell Lane in Falls Church, on December 27, 2007 around 6 a.m. A second burglary occurred at the Woodlake Convenience Store, 3100 South Manchester Street in Falls Church, on May 8 shortly after 5 a.m. Both of these businesses are located in apartment buildings.

The suspect's image was captured on surveillance video. He is described as a white male with brown hair, 25 to 35 years old. He is about 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighs approximately 180 to 200 pounds. In the video, he is wearing a white, button down shirt, blue jeans and brown shoes.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



### Fairfax County Community Crime Statistics Information Line

**703 – 246 – 7932**

This phone number can be used to request crime statistics for any neighborhood within Fairfax County. Callers will be asked to leave full contact information; requests will be filled within five to seven business days and limited to two requests per week.



**FAIRFAX COUNTY  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mason District Station  
6507 Columbia Pike  
Annandale, VA 22003

Phone: 703-256-8035

**Email:**

Christopher.Conner@Fairfaxcounty.gov  
Courtney.Thibault@Fairfaxcounty.gov  
Mary.Nugent@Fairfaxcounty.gov  
Jessica.Beaty@Fairfaxcounty.gov

**Crime Prevention Unit  
703-354-5889**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

[WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV](http://WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV)



A Fairfax County, Va., Publication

**Fairfax County Government  
12000 Government Center Pkwy  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030**

**Mason Station**

**Events**

**CAC**

**Next meeting**

**Sept. 2, 2008**

**Neighborhood Watch**

**Coordinators**

**Neighborhood Watch**

**Training**

**Sept. 2, 2008**

**Child Safety Seat Installations**

**Various dates throughout the  
county.**

**Please call the hotline for more  
details.**

**703-280-0559**



*Join us every first  
Tuesday of the month for  
the CAC Meeting held in  
the **Large Conference  
Room** at the Mason  
District Station.*

**The Cast of the Mason District Station**

**Station Commander**

*Captain Michael Dittmer*

**Assistant Commander**

*Lieutenant Rich Perez*

**Crime Prevention Unit**

*MPO Chip Conner*

*PFC Courtney Thibault*

*APO Mary Nugent*

**Community Policing Support**

*CA Jessica Beaty - Crime Analyst*